



Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs *Good News*



Volume 1 Issue 6

Welcome to Good News. This Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) newsletter highlights the accomplishments and sharing activities at both the local and national levels.

Joint Market Opportunities (JMO) Work Group Site Visits Continue

The JMO Work Group is examining existing joint venture relationships to identify opportunities for improving the delivery of healthcare to beneficiaries, and to identify those elements of existing joint ventures that are exportable to other market based partnerships. The Work Group has visited all eight existing joint venture sites and has observed varying degrees of sharing during their visits.

All sites reported positive benefits from their shared initiatives. In the more closely related partnerships a shared vision and commitment to the venture by leadership was evidenced by staff throughout the facility. The common barriers cited included the need for compatible information technology sharing in medical records and financial transactions as well the scarcity of qualified medical personnel to fill vacancies.

Overall, joint ventures have proven effective in maintaining or increasing access to care. Efficiency is clearly improved when access to care can be increased, infrastructure is reduced or staff is shared. There are still issues to be resolved, but the benefits which can and are garnered from joint ventures are sufficient to recommend exporting these arrangements to other sites and multi-market areas.

The Work Group has reported their findings to the Joint Executive Council (JEC) and per JEC guidance will focus on four specific sites. Two are current mature sharing sites, Las Vegas and Hawaii. Two are relatively informal sharing relationships—Denver and Keesler/Biloxi. The intent is to identify areas of opportunity within these four sites and further coordinate DoD and VA health care systems.

DoD and VA Officials Present Testimony to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs (SVAC)

Mr. Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense and Mr. Gordon Mansfield, Deputy Secretary of VA testified before the SVAC on April 23, 2008 to address the coordinated work to “streamline, deconflict, and expedite the two Departments’ efforts to improve support of

wounded, ill, and injured service member' recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration." The testimony highlighted achievements in the Disability Evaluation System, the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, and improved data sharing. The testimony outlined how the Senior Oversight Committee was established to complement the work of the JEC and was well received.

Dr. Stephen L. Jones, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Visits Texas

Dr. Stephen L. Jones, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and Mr. Charles (Chuck) Campbell, Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Military Health System visited Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas in April. While there, they toured Brooke Army Medical Center, the United States Army Institute of Surgical Research world renowned Burn Center, and the National Armed Forces Rehabilitation Center, also known as the Center for the Intrepid. Dr. Jones talked with leadership at Fort Sam Houston about the major Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) activities and the reorganization of the medical education and training plans for DoD. These new plans include the three DoD Military Departments working together on the Joint Medical Education and Training Campus. The tour of the Center for the Intrepid included a visit to the a prosthetic manufacturing workshop, the daily life activities lab and the running track all designed to help get wounded service members back to their daily lives faster.

For questions please contact the appropriate point of contact below.

COL Michael Krukar

Army Medical Department DoD/VA
Healthcare Resources Sharing Program
703.681.3153
Michael.Krukar@us.army.mil

Ms. Tamara L. Rollins

DoD/VA Program Manager
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
202-762-3520
Tamara.Rollins@med.navy.mil

Ms. Debra Irwin, DAFC

Chief, DoD/VA Resource Sharing
HQ USAF/SG3S
202-767-4150
debra.irwin@pentagon.af.mil

Ms. Crystal Coleman

Communications, DoD/VA Program
Coordination Office
TRICARE Management Activity/Health Affairs
Department of Defense
703-681-4258
crystal.coleman.ctr@tma.osd.mil

Ms. Betty Ruschmeier

Director, VA/DoD Liaison and Sharing Office
Veterans Health Administration
202-461-6534
Elizabeth.Ruschmeier@va.gov

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If you have any good news stories and or accomplishments from your local teams, please send them to Crystal Coleman at crystal.coleman.ctr@tma.osd.mil and your stories may be included in a future issue of the newsletter.

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